

TANGIPAHOA



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



Tangipahoa Parish

History¹

One of the Florida Parishes, Tangipahoa Parish was established on March 6, 1869. Its name is derived from the Tangipahoa Indians, who lived in that section when the French first occupied Louisiana. The root of the word Tangipahoa is the Indian word for “ear of corn” or “cornstalk.” Tangipahoa is the center of the strawberry industry in the South. Hundreds of carloads of the luscious fruit are shipped out annually. The topography of this parish, 51 miles long and 18 miles wide, is composed of flat lands to the south and rolling hills in the north.

Culture and Recreation³

Tangipahoa parish, located less than one hour from New Orleans, offers a 1000-ft. Swamp walk, an alligator farm and 900-acre animal safari, antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts, museums and historic districts. The annual Strawberry, Oyster and Dairy festivals highlight the area’s agriculture, while Old Farmer’s Day, Oktoberfest, Italian and Black Heritage festivals celebrate the local culture, making Tangipahoa known as the “Festival Capital of Louisiana.” Camp Moore Confederate museum keeps history alive with artifacts and documents relating to Louisiana Civil War history, although the original camp was completely destroyed before the Civil War was over. Hundreds of graves in Camp Moore Cemetery reflect the memories of the Confederate soldiers who lost their lives there.



**Tangipahoa Parish
Tourist Commission**
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**Regional Office of
Public Health**
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Parish Seat¹ Amite¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Hammond
1990 15,871
1997 (estimate) 17,742
Pontchatoula
1990 5,425
1997 (estimate) 5,940

Parish Population²

1990 85,709
1997 (esitmate) 95,283

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶



White	69%
African American	31%
Other	1%
Male	48%
Female	52%
Population age 0-4	7%
Populations age 65 & over	12%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	47 ft.
Land area in square miles	790.3
Water area in square miles ⁴	32.9

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	68°
January	55°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	60.3 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	42,060
Employed	38,080
Unemployed	3,980
Unemployment	9.5%

Agriculture¹

Strawberries, peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes; iron mill, masonry, lumber, commercial catfish, crawfish and alligator farming and candy.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Baton Rouge

Louisiana State University; Southern University

Hammond

Southeastern Louisiana University

Public Libraries⁵ 7

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	6.0%
High school graduate or higher	60.7%
Some college or higher	28.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	12.9%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers

North Oaks Medical Center (Medical)	1,218
Sanderson Farms, Inc. (Food Processing)	650
Jitney Jungle Distribution Center (Food Distribution)	600

Public Employers

Tangipahoa Parish School System (Education)	2,539
North Oaks Medical Center (Medical)	1,600
Southeastern Louisiana University (Education)	1,553

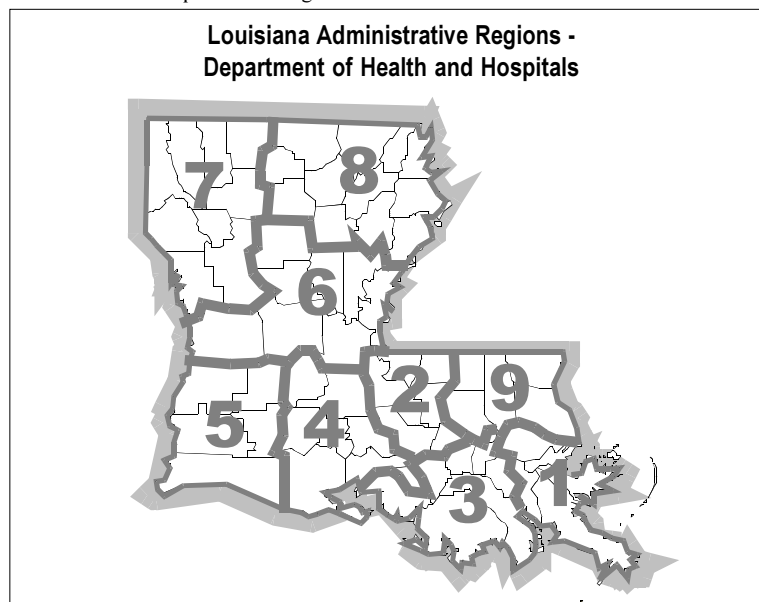
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	26.5%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	38.1%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$15,928



References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington